

EXHIBIT 8
DATE 2/17/2011
HB 482**Glenn & Laurie Hockett**

From: Janae Galanis [Janae@mhrea.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2011 8:38 PM
To: Flowers, Pat; kalt@mt.gov; drisley@mt.gov; jmaurier@mt.gov
Cc: Glenn & Laurie Hockett; Karrie Taggart; mikephillips@montana.net; Timothy Preso
Subject: Support of HB 482 - The Montana Wild Buffalo Conservation and Management Act of 2011

Pat~

On behalf of the Yellowstone Ranch Preserve (the largest private property landowner on the Horse Butte Peninsula - Hebgen Lake) and our family, Rob, Janae, Zach and Ian fully support HB 482.

Based on the several meetings we have had with you and your staff when we first purchased the Yellowstone Ranch Preserve, which has been over five years now, we have shared our honest intentions with you and your staff and taken in account your valuable knowledge regarding wildlife and the vital importance of restored corridor and habitat at our personal expense. We are simply asking that Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, along with you and your staff now take in account the millions of dollars that are shamelessly being spent to harass wildlife on a piece of property that has been placed in a conservation easement with Gallatin Valley Land Trust and conserved for the end of time. The pressure is now on your agency to take control of all wildlife and do the right thing by supporting HB 482. We should be thanking all the individuals who spend endless amounts of time and money to embrace something that is supposedly the mission statement of Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks and the National Forest Service.

“Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, through its employees and citizen commission, provides for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks, and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations.”

“The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.”

Status quo has not been working. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is pivotal in making a new future for bison specifically, wildlife and private property rights.

Sincerely—
The Galanis Family
Rob, Janae, Zach and Ian

2/17/2011

From: Larsen Ryberg (larsenryberg@gmail.com)
To: hobnob03@yahoo.com;
Date: Wed, February 16, 2011 9:56:54 AM
Cc:
Subject: Re: HB 482 hearing on 2/17

Karrie, turns out I wont be able to make the hearing but here is my testimony. I would appreciate it if you could help me get it into the record. Thx ED:

TESTIMONY OF EDWARD M. RYBERG
2590 DENNY CREEK ROAD, WEST YELLOWSTONE, MONTANA
ON HOUSE BILL 482

I very much regret not being able to deliver this testimony in person, but the expense and effort to get to Helena on such short notice makes it impossible.

I own 50+ acres adjacent to National Forest land just west of the South Fork of the Madison River. Based on my experience with the Department of Livestock (DOL) bison control activities, I feel strongly that this legislation is needed to protect private property rights and public safety. Operating under current authorities, the DOL has shown gross insensitivity as to how their activities threaten the safety of citizens on their own private property. DOL agents have also proven unwilling to work with landowners on alternative means to accomplish their mission. House Bill 482 (HB 482) seems would compel the DOL to act in a reasonable manner and prevent them from abusing their authority.

To illustrate the problem, I would like to recount an incident that occurred on my property last summer. On July 22, 2010, while having lunch with friends following a canoe trip on the South Fork, we were shocked and surprised to witness a DOL agent hazing a large, agitated bull buffalo on my private land, within 150 feet of my house, through my gate, onto the National Forest and across the river. Had this happened ten minutes earlier, we (six adults, 2 children and several pets) would have been walking thru the same gate with no place to escape from a dangerous bull buffalo.

Subsequently I learned that my brother had given the DOL permission to enter his property to haze the buffalo through his gate. However, the DOL agent chose instead take a shortcut through my property, without contacting me or getting my permission. I later met with Christian Mackay, Executive Officer of the DOL, to express my displeasure over this incident, and attempt to find a solution that would prevent a reoccurrence. I explained that due to it's location, it is impossible to use the gate in question without passing closer than 200 feet from my home. I also pointed out that there are two other nearby gates accessing the National Forest on my brothers' adjacent properties that could be used, without subjecting my family, guests and pets to the

danger of confronting dangerous buffalo. However, Mr. Mackay refused to commit to me that the DOL would not use the gate near my home. Apparently, the DOL is willing to risk the safety of citizen landowners even when viable alternatives exist.

My property has been in the family since the 1930's and has been used for seasonal cattle grazing most of that time. I have an excellent working relationship with the folks who run cattle on the National Forest grazing allotment adjacent to my property. Jointly we have spent thousands of dollars on fencing projects, in fact the gate in question was installed specifically to allow them vehicle access through my property to the allotment. It was not installed to make hazing buffalo easier for the DOL. At this point, due to the stubborn arrogance and abuse of authority displayed by the DOL, I plan on removing this gate, thereby denying access not just to DOL, but regrettably to my neighbor as well.

In closing, these actions by the DOL are un-American and violate constitutional guarantees that government may not take private property for it's own use without compensating the owners. In Montana, the precedent for respecting property rights with regard to buffalo management activities was established with the Royal Teton Ranch agreement that paid the ranch \$3.3 million to allow the government to haze buffalo from Yellowstone National Park to lands on the Gallatin National Forest. It is now time to pass HB 482 to ensure that the property rights of all Montana land owners, large and small, are respected and protected equally.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 482.

EDWARD M. RYBERG

Glenn & Laurie Hockett

From: David Robinson [david@lavacreekadventures.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2011 8:50 AM
To: mikephillips@montana.net; artw@montana.com
Cc: hobnob03@yahoo.com; glhockett@bresnan.net
Subject: Letter in support of HB 482 (and its Senate equivalent - Montana Wild Buffalo Recovery and Conservation Act of 2011) - We need action on this issue!

Dear Legislators,

As a thirty-three year Montana resident, land and homeowner, hunter and sportsman, and business owner, I strongly support HB 482, the "Montana Wild Buffalo Recovery and Conservation Act of 2011."

This legislation is long overdue. I have personally witnessed the arrogance and gross negligence of the State Department of Livestock when it comes to respecting private property rights. A repeal of the law that allows government trespass for politically motivated purposes is needed and necessary!

That the State DOL was ever given authority over the management of these wild animals was a case of poor judgement, to say the least. Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks is the agency best suited for the management of these animals, particularly given the need for a managed harvest, and the obvious desire by a large part of the public to see them allowed onto other suitable public lands within the state of Montana. Why are they treated so differently than elk and other large ungulates in this regard? It is common knowledge that brucellosis is carried by other wild animals, including elk, so any arguments for differentiating management and managing agencies for bison have no foundation in fact, only in political manipulation informed by minority interests.

I have also seen the results of what amounts to a poorly managed hunt due to disregard for fair chase regulations, in no small part because of the lack of the appropriate enforcement. The current three-way tug-of-war between the State of MT DOL, USFS, and Yellowstone NP authorities creates a ridiculously impossible situation regarding "who's in charge," particularly given the DOL's lack of concern for the welfare of these animals. We have a state agency created for the oversight of wildlife management, with the interests and long-term welfare of the wildlife, public, and business interests all given due consideration. Why have the bison ever been treated differently?

I operate a guide company and a vacation rental management company in the Yellowstone area, and I know that my national and international clients certainly perceive that bison are one of the preeminent symbols of "valued, native wildlife in the State of Montana." When they learn the whole story about state management of these animals, most are disheartened and saddened by yet another example of government short-sightedness.

The bison deserve more from their stewards, and the people of Montana deserve more from their state government!

Please vote yes on HB 482!

Regards,
David Robinson

2/17/2011

to House FWP COMM. ; I would urge you to support HB 482 . If you think federal protection of bison [i.e. ESA] ,may not be what you want to see transpire, you should consider supporting this bill , as it could well be that state action makes the critical difference . We have all witnessed what can happen when Uncle Sam tries his hand at wildlife management. charles murtagh bozeman

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David Robinson
Lava Creek - The Yellowstone Adventure Company
Guided Yellowstone van & walking tours, kayak tours & rentals
www.lavacreekadventures.com
(406) 646-5145

Vacation Cabins & Homes:
West Yellowstone Vacation Rentals
www.westyellowstonerentals.com
(406) 646-7585

Re: HB 482

From: Craig and Jackie Mathews, owners of Blue Ribbon Flies-Bx 1037 W. Yellowstone Mt. 59758, Mt Hunting and Fishing Outfitter #302, residing at Sun West Ranch, 80 E. Horse Creek Rd. Cameron, Mt 59720.

We support HB 482 a common sense, cooperative bill managing Montana's wild bison.

Our customers come from around the world to see these native animals which hold tremendous value to the residents of this state.

We feel Mt Fish, Wildlife and Parks should be the agency responsible for the management of these wild animals; for the hunting and fair chase of wild bison.

Too, the state's Dept of Livestock is best suited to insure livestock are protected within HB 482.

And, this bill would return private property rights to the landowner in cases involving wild bison management issues.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks along with the Department of Livestock can, and should manage our state's wild bison herds...cooperatively and with respect to each other and all residents of this great state.

Thanking you in advance for considering our comments, and thank you for what you all do for Montana. We remain;

Respectfully,
Craig and Jackie Mathews

-----Original Message-----

From: sueze24 <sueze24@aol.com>

To: mikephillips <mikephillips@montana.net>

Sent: Fri, Feb 11, 2011 9:59 pm

Subject: THANK YOU FOR HB482

Dear Mr. Phillips,

Thank you for introducing HB482 on behalf of the bison of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. I am a staunch bison supporter who has been fighting for these wonderful symbols of the American West over the last two decades. I live on Horse Butte and am constantly dealing with the bison issues, the intrusive Department of Livestock, and vigilante Native American hunters who seem to leave their rulebooks at home.

We need to preserve the genetically, native Yellowstone bison herd from extinction. Bison need habitat within the state of Montana. The Yellowstone Bison need roaming room outside the borders of Yellowstone National Park so that they may follow their instinctive migration patterns and be allowed to migrate in and out of the park as their instincts prompt them. Montana needs bison as part of its landscape. Tourists come from all over the world to see these wonderful creatures in their native habitat. These same tourists are mortified to see the hazing operations that take place - how the bison are run, shot, young calves trampled and separated from their mothers. This is not the picture of Montana people need to have seared into their memories upon visiting our great state. Out here on the butte, we no longer have cattle summering. However, we are forever plagued by the hazing operations that the IBMP (Department of Livestock, Christian MacKay) insists must take place because it is the law (which we all know means we've been given the money to spend, to go out and play with our big toys for a day).

I will do whatever I can to help you in passing HB482. We need tolerance of bison and all wildlife in this great state of ours. Many tourists dollars are spent every year to come and see our bison, wolves, bears, etc. I work in the tourist industry here in West Yellowstone and prior to that in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. I can tell you I've never heard a tourist say "Where are the cows?". I consistently am asked, even in the winter, "Where can we see bison, wolves, bears, elk?". Thank you for fighting for our bison.

Sincerely,

Susan McClure

P.O. Box 622

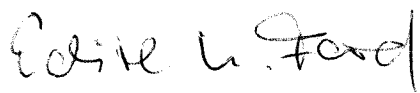
West Yellowstone, MT 59758

(406) 646-1177

West Yellowstone February 17, 2011

I am writing in support of bill HB 482. The current management of buffalo in Montana is senseless and cruel. Adopting bill HB 482 would be a big step toward a better solution.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edith U. Ford". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely".

Edith U. Ford

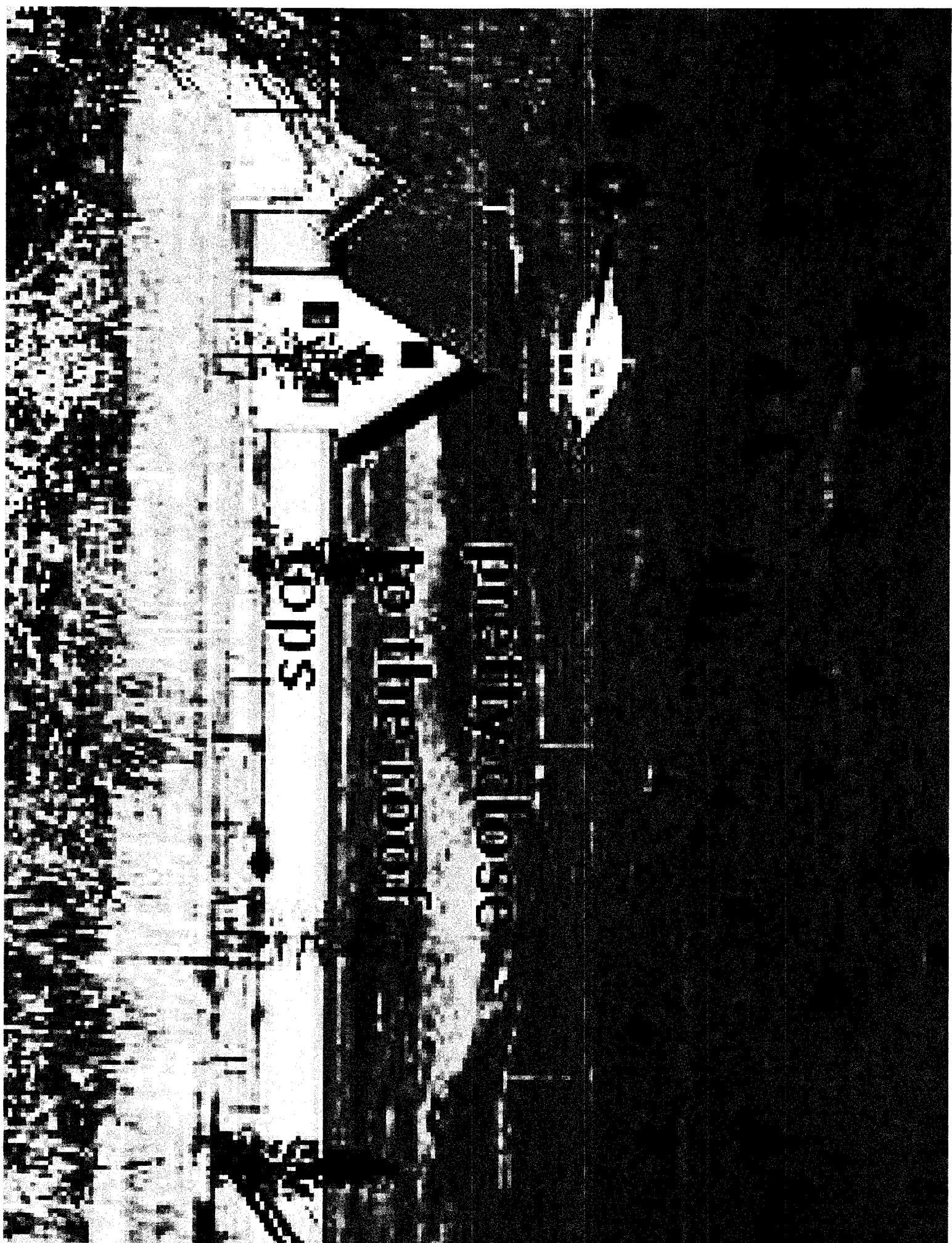
P.O. Box 1715

West Yellowstone, MT59758

**pretty close
to the roof
tops**



prettily and close as to the roof tops



FEB 17, 2011

To the powers that be;

1. I would like to show my support of HB482, as a lifelong resident of Montana/Gallatin County/ West Yellowstone/Horse Butte.

To think Bison are anything but wildlife is absurd.

If they are going to be treated as livestock, I have a recorded brand with the Department of Livestock, and I would like to know which of these Bison I would be able to brand.

We have proof (as I understand) Bison were NOT the host of the Brucella outbreaks. If I'm not mistaken, they have not definitely said it was Elk, either, they are still assuming. Who is to say these cows didn't contract it from within their own herd(i.e. vaccine) since there is worry of it resurfacing after 5 or so years?

I have horses out here year around on the Horse Butte, and the ONLY time I have a problem keeping them inside my fences is when the Department of Livestock Helicopter is hazing the Horse Butte, thus I have to keep them in the barn if I suspect their operations are going to happen. No, they do not give you warning, nor do they care. (No rights as a property owner at all) I've had the horses run through fences because of the low flying whomp, whomp of the blades. We won't mention fence repairs.

Never, have I had the Bison run through or cause the horses to panic, unless a helicopter is in the air.

There is no risk of transmission to cattle from anything out here on the Peninsula, and to have MY property rights disrespected, my livestock's well being, disrespected, over some cattle rancher that doesn't reside, or own property in the same county, is prejudicial to my Rights over a cattle owner. Livestock is livestock, and Bison are not Livestock.

The entire concern is if Bison get where cattle will be, I understand that concern(although it is more and more unfounded), but when Bison are where NO cattle will ever be, all I see is a bunch of 'bar-stool' cowboys trying to rodeo at the taxpayer's expense, and an awful lot of money is thrown away on helicopter expenses alone.

My Brother has a Bison tag, and is way down on the list, yet the Park service is

rounding up Bison so the hunters that have tags can't fill them. Where is the sense in this? Instead, the Livestock Industry wants to waste tax dollars with rounding them up, expenses to ship, expenses to slaughter, expenses to package and deliver to food banks etc. yet when a hunter 'harvests' what does it cost the taxpayer?

It only makes sense to allow the FW&P to have jurisdiction over Bison as a Wildlife species, let the DoL be called when direct livestock is a concern (i.e. cattle pasture).

It's time to stop the madness of all this wasteful spending!!!

Ann Stovall

PO Box 863

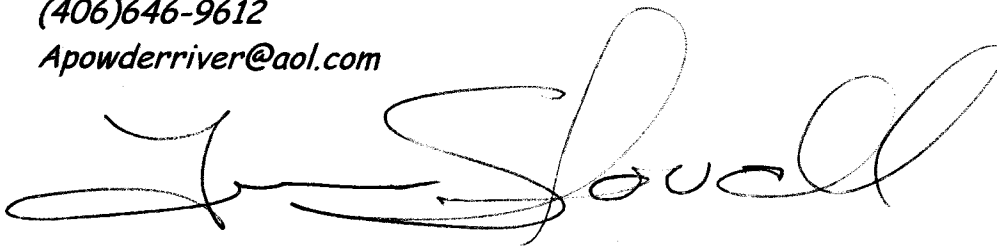
224 Valentine Ln

Horse Butte Peninsula

West Yellowstone, MT 59758

(406)646-9612

Apowderriver@aol.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann Stovall', with a large, stylized loop at the end.